procedures and control arrangements in identified fraud prone areas. Besides, the banks are also required to report all major frauds above a certain cut-off point to Central Bureau of Investigation The Central Vigilance Commission is also overseeing the functioning of vigilance machinery of all banks and all disciplinary cases of senior management officials are to be referred to them. An annual review of the vigilance arrangements obtaining in the banks is also undertaken by the Government.

Australian investment in India's Development

7559. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India have invited Australia to participate in its development by investing in India: and

(b) if so, the response of that Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Invitations for Australian participation have been extended, in line with the general policy of liberalisation and foreign investment, at various fora; such as during the visit of the Vice President to Australia in April, 1994.

(b) The Australian Government and Australian business and industry have responded positively to the new trends towards liberalisation initiated by India.

Price stability of essential commodities

7560. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to use foreign exchange reserves to ensure adequate availability and price stability of essential commodities in the country;

(b) whether such a step will adversely hit the economy of the country;

(c) whether Government have any alternative steps to streamline the price stability and availability of essential commodities; and

(d) if so, the further actior Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has permitted imports of sugar, raw cotton, edible ols and pulses under OGL to augment the domestic supplies so as to moderate the increase in their prices.

(b) Such imports constitute a very small proportion of the domestic output and hence cannot have any adverse effect on the country's economy.

(c) and (d) Government have taken the following steps as part of supply Management Policy to bring moderation in prices:

(i) allow open market sale of wheat by FCI.

(ii) allow open market sale of rice by FCI.

(iii) allow sugar imports under OGL with zero duty.

(iv) allow palmolin oil import under OGL.

(v) supplement edible oil stocks for PDS through imports at concessional import duty.

(vi) allowing import of cotton under OGL with zero duty.

(vii) allowing import of VSF at concessional duty of 7 percent.

(viii) intending Selective Credit Control measures for agro-raw materials.

Expected NRI investments in India

7561. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: